

Claims

What is claimed is:

1. A medical system, comprising:

5 a first implantable medical device (IMD) implanted within a patient having a first communication circuit and storage means for storing data signals descriptive of the medical system;

10 a second communication circuit in proximity to the first communication circuit to receive the data signals from the first communication circuit;

15 a second IMD implanted in the patient; and

 a processing circuit coupled to receive the data signals from the second communication circuit and to configure the second IMD based on the data signals.

2. The system of Claim 1, wherein the second communication circuit is carried
15 within the second IMD.

3. The system of Claim 2, wherein the processing circuit is coupled to the second communication circuit.

20 4. The system of Claim 1, wherein the second communication circuit is external to the patient.

25 5. The system Claim 1, wherein the storage means includes means for storing information descriptive of at least one of the first and second IMDs, the information being selected from the group consisting of model and serial numbers, lot numbers, expiration dates, electrical characteristics, labeling changes, cautions, product performance results, recall information, shipping information, freight IDs, intended therapy information, indications for use, and calibration parameters, technical manuals, therapy settings, threshold values, therapy settings and impedance values.

6. The system of Claim 1, wherein the first communication circuit includes a passive transponder, and wherein the second communication circuit includes a circuit to provide a signal to power the passive transponder.

5 7. The system of Claim 1, wherein the first communication circuit includes a circuit to receive power from the second IMD.

10 8. The system of Claim 1, wherein the first IMD includes a sensor to sense a physiological parameter, and wherein the second IMD includes sensor means for calibrating operation of the sensor based on the data signals.

9. The system of Claim 1, wherein the first IMD includes means for providing electrical stimulation to the patient, and wherein the second IMD includes means for calibrating a manner of delivery of the electrical stimulation based on the data signals.

15 10. The system of Claim 1, wherein the second IMD is capable of performing multiple functions, the second IMD further includes means for disabling one or more of the multiple functions based on the data signals.

20 11. The system of Claim 1, wherein the first communication circuit includes a receiver capable of receiving signals from the second communication circuit.

12. The system of Claim 1, wherein the first IMD includes a surface acoustic wave (SAW) filter.

25 13. The system of Claim 1, wherein the storage means stores operating parameters descriptive of the second IMD.

30 14. The system of Claim 1, wherein the second IMD includes switchable circuits, and wherein the processing circuit includes means for configuring the switchable circuits based on the data signals.

15. A system to configure an implantable medical device (IMD), wherein the IMD is in communication with at least one additional component external to the IMD, the system comprising:

5 a first communication circuit carried on the at least one additional component, the communication circuit to store data signals descriptive of the at least one additional component;

10 a second communication circuit in proximity to the first communication circuit to receive the data signals from the first communication circuit; and

15 a processing circuit coupled to receive the data signals from the second communication circuit, and to configure operations of the IMD based on the data signals.

16. The system of Claim 15, wherein the first communication circuit is a transponder.

15 17. The system of Claim 16, wherein the transponder is a passive transponder.

18. The system of Claim 15, wherein the transponder includes a storage circuit to store the data signals descriptive of the at least one additional component.

20 19. The system of Claim 15, wherein the storage circuit includes a circuit to store ones of the data signals indicative of component identification information.

25 20. The system of Claim 15, wherein the storage circuit includes a circuit to store ones of the data signals indicative of technical data associated with the at least one additional component.

30 21. The system of Claim 15, wherein the at least one additional component is a sensor to sense a physiological parameter, and wherein the storage circuit includes a circuit to store ones of the data signals descriptive of the sensor.

22. The system of Claim 15, wherein the at least one additional component is a lead, and wherein the storage circuit includes a circuit to store ones of the data signals indicative of connector information associated with the lead.

5 23. The system of Claim 15, wherein the second communication circuit is located within the IMD.

24. The system of Claim 15, wherein the second communication circuit is located in a device external to the IMD.

10 25. The system of Claim 24, wherein the second communication circuit is located in an external programmer.

15 26. The system of Claim 24, wherein the second communication circuit is located in a patient data module (PDM).

27. The system of Claim 21, wherein the first communication circuit includes an RF transmitter.

20 28. The system of Claim 27, wherein the first communication circuit includes an RF receiver capable of receiving information from the second communication circuit.

25 29. The system of Claim 28, wherein the first communication circuit includes a circuit to allow the storage circuit to store the information received from the second communication circuit.

30. The system of Claim 15, wherein the first communication circuit includes a surface acoustic wave (SAW) filter.

30 31. The system of Claim 15, wherein the IMD includes at least one amplification circuit, and wherein the system further includes a gain adjustment circuit coupled to

control the gain of the at least one amplification circuit, and wherein the processing circuit is capable of configuring the gain adjustment circuit based on the data signals.

32. The system of Claim 15, wherein the system further includes at least one selection circuit coupled to the at least one additional component, and wherein the processing circuit is capable of configuring the selection circuit to control interconnection of the at least one additional component with the IMD based on the data signals.

10 33. The system of Claim 21, wherein the system further includes a circuit to allow the processing circuit to calibrate the at least one sensor based on the data signals.

15 34. A method of configuring a medical system, comprising the steps of:
(a) storing data signals in a first IMD;
(b) providing a second IMD;
(c) transferring the data signals from the first IMD to a location outside of the first IMD; and
(d) configuring the second IMD based on the data signals.

20 35. The method of Claim 34, and including:
(a) providing a first communication circuit in the first IMD;
(b) providing a second communication circuit proximal to the second IMD;
and wherein step (c) including transferring the data signals from the first IMD to the second IMD via the first and second communication circuits.

25 36. The method of Claim 34, wherein the first IMD includes at least one optional component, and wherein step (d) includes configuring the second IMD to recognize the presence of the at least one optional component.

30 37. The method of Claim 34, wherein step (d) includes configuring the second IMD to optimally operate with circuits included within the first IMD.

38. The method of Claim 34, wherein step (d) includes disabling one or more functions of the second IMD.

5 39. The method of Claim 35, wherein step (c) includes providing a signal to the

first IMD to power the first communication circuit.

40. The method of Claim 34, wherein step (a) includes storing data signals in the first IMD that are indicative of the operating parameters of the second IMD.

10 41. The method of Claim 34, wherein step (a) includes storing data signals in the first IMD that are indicative of the operating parameters of the first IMD.

42. The method of Claim 34, wherein step (c) includes transferring the data signals from the first IMD to a programmer, and wherein step (d) includes configuring the second IMD via the programmer.

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